SUSAN E. BIRCH STATEMENT ON COLORADO BASED INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF MEDICAID EXPANSION COSTS

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DENVER – February 7, 2013 – In early January, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper announced plans to contain costs while expanding Medicaid. At that time, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing released its 10-year estimates regarding the cost of expansion. Since the Department's release of its estimates, other independent analysis has been conducted to estimate the cost of expanding Medicaid, including analysis conducted by the Colorado Health Institute with funding by the Colorado Trust. Below is the Department's statement in response to the new analysis.

"The Medicaid expansion cost and caseload estimates by the Colorado Trust and Colorado Health Institute further support the need to expand coverage to more Coloradoans. While our individual 10-year estimates vary based on our individual methodologies and the research available at the time of the estimate, the takeaway message stays the same: expanding coverage makes sense and will improve the lives of Coloradans. At the same time we're expanding coverage, we are stepping up our efforts to provide more value in Medicaid and contain health care costs."